

NORTHERN ANDERSON COUNTY EMS
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October 28, 2008

Public Service Commission
Docketing Department
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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SC PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

Docket Number 2007-445-A

Members of the Public Service Commission:

Northern Anderson County EMS has been providing patient transportation since 1989 in the Upstate of South Carolina. We would like to speak out on behalf of our patients against the proposed legislation creating new regulations governing stretcher vans.

Northern Anderson County EMS transports roughly 18,000 patients per year. Although some of our transports are patients with no medical complications, a large number of our patients have serious medical conditions requiring constant monitoring by medical professions. We transport patients quite frequently who have a crisis in their medical status while enroute requiring immediate intervention. We're afraid that allowing a patient to be transported by someone who is trained only in basic first aid could seriously compromise not just their health but their life.

We have only to look at the problems arising from the Medicaid brokerage system implemented a year and a half ago. We were inundated with complaints from nursing homes about patients who suffered neglect from their brokered transportation.

The safe and timely transport of our patients is of paramount importance to us. Our fear is that changing the rules governing stretcher transportation will have a detrimental effect on the safety and well-being of our patients. Please reconsider your decision to change these regulations.

Sincerely,

Dave

Dave Roberts
Director